

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 172131Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0201

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS ETRD ESTC CU CA

SUBJ CANADIAN-CUBAN TRADE

1. MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MACEACHEN) WAS RESPONSIVE TO MY SUGGESTION YESTERDAY THAT IN HANDLING MATTERS SIMILAR TO THE COLE-LITTON FURNITURE SALE TO CUBA IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF CANADIAN OFFICIALS COULD REFRAIN FROM ISSUING STATEMENTS WHICH MIGHT GIVE RISE TO STRONG MEDIA AND PUBLIC REACTIONS IN CANADA. I COMMENTED THAT IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE DEAL BETWEEN IBM SUBSIDIARY HERE AND CUBA RESTRAINT DISPLAYED BY THE AUTHORITIES HAD GOOD EFFECT AND WAS HELPFUL TO DEPARTMENT AND TO CORPORATION CONCERNED. I INFORMED THE MINISTER THAT WHEN THESE CASES ARISE OUR OWN REACTION IS TO EXAMINE CIRCUMSTANCES TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE CONSTRUCTIVELY AND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT I UNDERSTOOD DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED BY SECRETARY TO REVIEW CUBAN TRADE POLICIES.

2. MACEACHEN SAID HE AGREED WITH MY COMMENTS AND WAS VERY PLEASED TO HEAR THAT SUCH A REVIEW HAD BEEN INSTITUTED AND HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO KEEP CANADIAN COMMENT WITHIN BOUNDS.

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3. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT MACEACHEN WILL TRY TO BE HELPFUL, BUT I HAVE DOUBTS THAT HE CAN EXERT MUCH INFLUENCE OVER THREE STRONGLY NATIONALIST MINISTERS WHO PRESIDE OVER CANADIAN COMMERCE (GILLESPIE), AGRICULTURE (WHELAN), AND ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES (MACDONALD) WHEN AMERICAN INTERESTS OR LAWS APPEAR TO IMPINGE ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THEM. RESTRAINED COMMENT IS NOT A FEATURE OF THEIR USUAL REACTION, WHICH FREQUENTLY RESULTS IN STIRRING UP NATIONALIST SENTIMENT AND STRESSING "INTOLERABLE INTERVENTION" OF UNITED STATES.

4. IN THIS CONVERSATION WITH MACEACHEN, I SAID THAT WHEN SUCH INCIDENTS OCCUR I ASSUME THAT CANADIANS OF MODERATE PERSUASION UNDERSTAND THAT US LAWS ARE NOT DESIGNED TO PLACE RESTRAINTS ON CANADIAN COMMERCE; AND THAT MY SECOND ASSUMPTION IS THAT CANADIANS OF THE SAME PERSUASION DO NOT EXPECT AMERICANS WHO HAVE MADE LARGE INVESTMENTS AND WHO HAVE THUS CREATED MANY THOUSANDS OF JOBS IN CANADA TO IGNORE THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THUS INCUR THE RISK OF LEGAL PENALTIES. I WANTED TO ASSURE HIM, I SAID, THAT WE DO WHAT WE CAN TO ACT RESPONSIBLY AND FLEXIBLY. HE SAID HE WOULD TRY TO HELP, AND HE REPEATED HIS SATISFACTION AT TRADE POLICY REVIEW.
PORTER

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